

SECRET

21 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Domestic Contact Service
Operational Support Staff

ATTENTION: ()

SUBJECT: Fire in the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Library

REFERENCE: DCS Case 47902, dated 8 November 1966

1. This is in reference to your request for a reply for Niagara Falls concerning information regarding the "official version" of the burning of the library in the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in Kiev. The attached translation of an article which appeared in the Ukrainian-language journal Suchasnist is self-explanatory. ^{Feb 1965} Following is all the information we have on the fire from the Soviet press. To our knowledge, there were no other Soviet press reports concerning the fire.

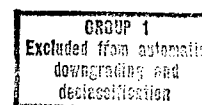
2. Radyanska Kultura, 28 May 1964, carried a short news item which in summary said: There was a fire in the library on 24 May 1964. Thanks to the efforts of the fire brigade of the city of Kiev, the fire was localized and extinguished. According to an announcement made by the Academy of Sciences of the UkSSR, the library records were not all destroyed. Basic stores of books were only partially destroyed, and it will be possible to replace them with existing duplicate copies. A State commission was established to conduct an investigation concerning the cause of the fire and to see that proper measures are taken to have the library premises repaired.

3. Ukrains'kiy Istorychny Journal (Ukrainian Historical Journal), No. 5, May 1965, carried an article stating there was a fire in the library which resulted in the destruction of some of the books but that almost all the losses would be replaced from duplicate copies.

4. Visti z Ukrainy (News from the Ukraine) carried an article in the June 1965 issue in which it was stated that there was a fire in the library on 24 May 1964 and that because of the variety of strange accounts about the fire which were being circulated by various individuals it was decided to set the record straight. A short history about the library was given and a description of its composition. There indeed was a fire resulting in the loss of many books. The fact that the fire took place had been reported in the 27 May 1964 issue of Kievs'ka Pravda and the No. 104 issue of

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET



SECRET

- 2 -

Kievs'ka Zorya of 27 May 1964. There was an investigation following the fire which left no doubt that Victor V. POGRUZHANSKY had set fire to the library as an act of revenge against the library administrator. POGRUZHANSKY was tried in Kiev in August and sentenced under Article 89, Part 2, of the Criminal Code of the UkSSR to 10 years, one-half of the time to be spent in prison and the remainder in a corrective labor colony.

5. Literaturna Gazeta, 4 July 1964. A short item appeared concerning an interview with K. D. BAKULIN, Chief of the Department of Foreign Books in the Kiev library, during which he mentioned that there was a fire but that none of the books in his department were lost.

C
Acting Chief, SB/S/CA

Attachment: as stated, herewith

SECRET